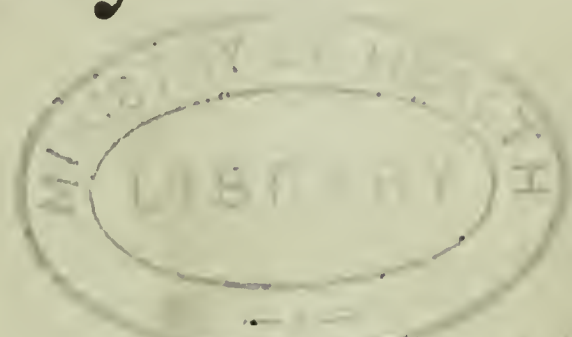


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**Borough of Llanfyllin.**



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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE**

**YEAR 1925.**





**Borough of Llanfyllin.**

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of course.  
Your obedient servant  
J. Felix Jones  
Medical Officer of Health  
to the Board of Health.

May 18. 26

The Chief Medical Officer  
Witchhall

Dear Sir.

I beg to enclose you  
a copy of my Annual Report





LLANFYLLIN,

March 24th, 1926.

**To the Mayor and Members of the Llanfyllin  
Borough Council.**

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report on the sanitary condition of the Municipal Borough of Llanfyllin for the year 1925.

The area of the Borough is 8,143 acres. Population (census 1921) 1,639, estimated 1925 1,613.

The physical features and general character of the district. The town itself lies in a valley. The district is purely Agricultural, consisting of small well-watered valleys with surrounding hills. There are no industries.

Number of inhabited houses (1921) 422. Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) 422. Rateable value—£10,337. Sum represented by a penny rate—£24.

**Vital Statistics.**

**Births.**—There were only 19 births registered during the year, 13 boys and 6 girls—one boy being illegitimate. The birth-rate for the year will be 11.7 per 1000, as compared with 15.5 for 1924, 15.9 for 1923, 17.6 for 1922 and 15.6 for 1921.

**Deaths.**—During the year there were 14 deaths of inmates in the Poor Law Institution—one of whom was a resident in the Borough.

The total number of deaths in the Borough during 1925 from the statistics sent me by the Registrar General and corrected for inward and outward transfers is 33—22 males and 11 females. One of these deaths given as due to "other tuberculosis disease" I cannot trace either from the Registrar's death returns or from the transferable deaths—that is, people from this district who die out of the district—so conclude there must be an error in the statistics sent me. These 32 deaths give a death-rate of 19.8 per 1000, for 1924 it was 11.19, for 1923 19.1, for 1922 19.5 and for 1921 23 per 1000.

One death was due to Influenza; four to Cancer (two males and two females); three to Heart Disease; two to pneumonia; two to Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases; two to nephritis; one to Parturition, and one to Violence.

Twelve of these deaths were in persons over 70 years of age.

**Infantile Death-rate.**—There were 4 deaths of infants under one year of age—one being illegitimate. This death-rate will therefore be 210 per 1000 births; for 1924 it was nil; for 1923 160; for 1922 142; for 1921 120, and for 1920 and 1919 nil.

This infantile death-rate of 210 per 1000 sounds very alarming, but when you analyse the causes of death, you will see that three of them were non-preventible, two deaths were due to malformations from birth, one was prematurely born and only lived for one hour, and the fourth death was from Convulsions due to teething.

## Amount of Poor Law Relief.

The amount of out relief paid for the year ending March 25th, 1925 was £627 12s. 7d. an increase of £33 13s. 11d. on the previous year.

The Llanfyllin Poor Law Institution is utilised for the relief of poor persons who are destitute or who being ill or infirm are moved there for better nursing and attendance.

## General Provision of Health Services.

1. **Hospitals.**—There are none in the district but the following are available :—
  - (a) **For Smallpox.**—There is accommodation at the County Smallpox Hospital, Mochdre for ten cases, and the County Medical Officer of Health has made arrangements for securing further (temporary) accommodation and a staff of Nurses in case of a serious outbreak.
  - (b) **For other Infectious Diseases.**—Under an agreement between the County Council and the Shrewsbury and Atcham Joint Isolation Hospital Authority, urgent cases which cannot be safely treated at home on account of housing and other conditions are sent to that Institution.
  - (c) **For Tuberculosis.**—The Welsh National Memorial Association give all facilities for removal of cases to their Hospital at Machynlleth within the county.
  - (d) **Maternity.**—A scheme for the establishment of small Maternity Homes in the County is being agreed upon.



- (c) **Children.**—Orthopedic cases are sent to the Shropshire Orthopedic Hospital near Oswestry, and there are children's Wards in the Newtown and Welshpool Hospitals, with facilities for X-ray treatment.
- II. The Llanfyllin Poor Law Institution is the only provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the area.
- III. Ambulance facilities for infectious cases are provided by the Shrewsbury Isolation Hospital (see I. b.) and cases from this area are removed by ambulance.
- IV. **Clinics and Treatment Centres:**
1. **Tuberculosis Station.**—The County Tuberculosis Physician visits the town on the last Thursday in every month, or more often if required. He has a consulting-room and a waiting room provided by the Welsh Memorial Association. He examines cases and contacts and his visits are productive of much good, especially in educating the people in the advantages of fresh air, cleanliness and the simple rules of hygiene.
  2. **Child Welfare Centre.**—The meetings are held monthly on the first Thursday. For 1925 there was a total of 88 attendances of babies, as compared with 93 in 1924, 108 in 1923, 88 in 1922, and 79 in 1921. A record is kept of each child, its history, its various ailments and its weight. So far as practicable, anti-natal supervision of expectant mothers is carried out.

### Public Health Officers.

1. A part-time Medical Officer of Health.
2. A part-time Sanitary Inspector who also acts as food Inspector but has no special qualification.
3. The District Nurse who holds the Central Midwives Board diploma and is the only qualified Maternity Nurse in the Borough. She is not allowed to attend infectious Cases. She visits the Elementary Schools periodically and deals with uncleanness, verminous conditions and minor ailments under the advice and supervision of the County School Medical Officer and the County Health Visitor.

### Chemical and Laboratory Work.

Bacteriological Examinations for the Diagnosis of Pathological conditions are conducted at the Public Health Laboratory, Victoria

University, Manchester, by arrangement with the County Council. Examinations of Sputum or Phlegm for the diagnosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are provided by the Welsh Memorial Association at Cardiff.

Diphtheria Antitoxin and other Sera are also supplied by you free of charge, through me to the practitioners in the district.

## **Regulations in Force.**

Part 3 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted and came into operation on September 7th, 1925.

Byelaws relating to New Streets and Buildings and Markets and the Milk Regulations. These Byelaws have been revised in 1925.

## **Sanitary circumstances of the District.**

**Water.**—There has been no shortage of drinking water during the year.

There are 8 Taps conveying pure drinking water to convenient centres in the town, and in addition there is the Bath Pump and Coedllan Well. There are also 8 Taps conveying water for washing purposes only to different parts of the town. Three of these taps empty into three tanks under Penybryn and are a great convenience.

## **Drainage and Sewerage.**

All the houses above Paris House and Council House are drained into two tanks in Bodfach Park. These tanks are emptied at regular intervals. From Council House and Houses below there is a surface drain which empties into an underground drain by the Town Hall. This underground drain also receives the drainage from Narrow Street and above, and one side of Market Street. On the other side of Market Street there is a surface drain which also joins it near the Temperance Hotel and then empties into the barrel drain which also conveys a little stream and runs down Brook Street and High Street receiving all the drainage from these Streets passing Glanaber to empty in the River Cain.

The drainage from Paris House to Victoria House flows into an underground drain which runs down Church Street emptying into the main drain from one tank in Bodfach Park—Mr. Stanley Davies's field. This drain goes past the Smithfield through the Tanyard and under the little stream through the gardens behind



Bachie Place to empty below the weir. The Pendref drain also joins this and the drain from Gas Yard with the drainage from Bridge Street and Church Street.

I recommend you to consider the advisability of having septic tanks provided at the outlet of these drains before they discharge into the river.

## Closet Accommodation and Scavenging.

There are 136 pail closets, each closet having two pails; the night soil from which is removed weekly by a contractor with the aid of your workmen. It is conveyed in covered pails carried on a lorry and there is no spilling of refuse in the street. The work is done at night, between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

There are about 19 Water Closets all having intercepting tanks.

There are 4 Public Ashpits, which are emptied when required.

There are about 31 private Ashpits. The owners are responsible for the emptying of these and for keeping them in a sanitary condition.

Having now obtained the necessary powers you are about to do away with these objectionable Ashpits and require householders to have moveable ashbins. These could be emptied weekly and the whole refuse carted away to a safe distance.

The paving of courts with Tar Macadam or some impervious material should be carried out and the owners should have notice to that effect.

In order to see whether it would be feasible to have a water carriage and a proper sewerage system in the town, you have engaged the services of an expert Water Engineer who has made a thorough examination of the various sources of water-supply and the present drainage. He reports that an adequate water-supply is available from the Upper Llwyn pools, where a reservoir could be set up with sufficient storage for the town's needs, and he recommended the sewage to be taken through filter-beds below the town. He estimated the cost to be between £14,000 and £16,000.

## Inspections by Sanitary Inspector during the year 1925

Slaughter Houses.	Bake- houses.	Cowsheds.	Factories.	Workshops.
Jan. 9	Feb. 16	Jan. 9	Feb. 18	Jan. 9
Apr. 8	May 21	Mar. 17	May 21	Apr. 8
June 6	July 7	June 7	Aug. 7	July 21
Sept. 20	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	Oct. 14	Oct. 14
Nov. 7	Dec. 11	Nov. 7	Dec. 11	Dec. 11

Six instances of want of cleanliness were observed and were remedied on receipt of verbal notice. Should they not have been remedied statutory notices would have been given.

One case of overcrowding was reported to you and has been partially abated by one adult Male going out.

### Schools.

The sanitary condition of the two Elementary Schools and the County School and also their water-supply is satisfactory.

### Food Inspection and Supervision.

**Meat.**—There are two registered Slaughter-houses in your district. Meat inspection is carried out by your Inspector, who also attends when there is slaughtering.

**Bake-houses.**—There are three in the district. They are clean and well-kept.

**Sale of Food and Drugs Act.**—No prosecutions under this Act have taken place during the year.

### Milk Supply. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order.

There are 4 of these registered in the Borough. One—Mr. Stanley Davies's—has been removed from Bridge Street to Pen-dalog. The lighting and ventilation of one was defective, but has now been remedied. The interior of all of them are lime-washed every six months. There have been no cases of tuberculous cattle.

No applications for licences for the sale of Milk under special designations have been received.



## Infectious Diseases.

The following Table shows the notifiable diseases other than Tuberculosis from 1920 to 1924.

			1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Scarlet Fever	...	...	2	2	6	7	2
Diphtheria	...	...	Nil	29	5	1	Nil
Enteric Fever	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	...	...	Nil	1	3	7	2
Erysipelas	...	...	1	Nil	2	2	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil

The following Table shows the notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

<i>Disease.</i>	Total Cases notified.		Admitted to Hospital.		Total Deaths.	
Smallpox ...	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	2	...	Nil	...	Nil
Diphtheria...	...	2	...	Nil	...	Nil
Enteric Fever	..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Puerperal Fever	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Pneumonia	...	5	...	Nil	...	2
Ophthalmia Neon- atorum ...	...	1	...	Nil	...	Nil

**Diphtheria.**—There was a severe epidemic of this disease in the Autumn of 1921 taking place soon after some Sheep-dog Trials were held, and at that time there was a wide-spread epidemic of this disease in the outside districts, and there is no doubt that people from infected houses and carriers of this disease came to these Trials and thus started the epidemic here.

In 1922 there were 5 cases, being the tail-end of the epidemic. In 1923 one, in 1924 none, and there were two in 1925. There were no deaths from this disease in 1921, two died in 1922, and there were no deaths in 1923, 1924 or 1925. Diphtheria Antitoxin is always promptly used in all cases, and no patient is considered convalescent until a negative throat swab has been obtained.

The Schick Test has not been tried.

**Scarlet Fever.**—The few cases occurring in the last five years have been of a mild form.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum** or inflammation of the eyes in new-born infants.—One case occurred in 1923 and one in 1925. Both cases were treated at home and recovered with vision unimpaired.

There have been no vaccinations or re-vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox prevention) Regulations, 1917.

## Tuberculosis.

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Age.	NEW CASES.					DEATHS.				
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>		
14	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	1	<i>died</i>	17/3/26
23	...	—	1	...	—	—	1	...	<i>died</i>	16/3/26

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The efficiency of notification of Tuberculosis in this district is good. After a death from this cause or removal to an Institution the house is disinfected by your Inspector and this is also done in cases of severe infectious disease.

## Factories and Workshops Act.

There are 6 Factories and 35 Workshops in the Borough. They are inspected regularly and are kept in a satisfactory condition.

## Sanitary Progress—1920 to 1925.

A piece of waste ground between the river and the Mill race of Pendref Mill has been utilised since 1921 as a new Refuse Dépôt and it is a very suitable spot. The old dépôt has been emptied, cleaned out and the contents carted away.

A Smithfield has now been provided in Bridge Street. It is well supplied with water and is well-drained. It obviates to some extent the custom on fair-days of having cattle, horses, sheep and pigs sold in the public streets, a proceeding which caused a good deal of nuisance.

In 1921 the District Nursing Association established the Child Welfare Centre in the town, which is doing good work.



You have now adopted Part 3 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, and also revised your local Byelaws.

You have gone thoroughly into the question of a Sewerage Scheme and have employed an expert Water Engineer who has reported and given you an estimate of the cost.

## Housing Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year ... .. 2  
(Both by private enterprise).

### I. Unfit Dwelling-houses Inspection :

1. Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects ... .. 10
2. Number inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 ... .. Nil
3. Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. Nil
4. Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. 4

### II. Remedy of defects without service of formal notice :

1. Number rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... Nil

### III. Action under Statutory Powers :

- (a) Proceedings under Section 3 of Housing Act, 1925 Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts ... .. Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 .. ... Nil

## HOUSING.

I. There is a general shortage of houses of all classes in the Borough, and what new houses are being built are built by private enterprise.

II. **Overcrowding.**—One case only was reported during 1925 and one adult male having left, it is to some extent abated.

### III. **Fitness of Houses:**

(a) General standard of housing for the working classes is to a great extent poor.

(b) General characters of defects in unfit houses:  
Repairs wanted for roofs, &c.

I am informed that the defects in the 4 houses especially mentioned in housing statistics (I, 4) are due to the fact that no rent is charged. The landlord refusing to repair and when the present tenants leave the houses will remain empty and not be let again. Defects are also due to neglect and waste by the tenants.

IV. Unhealthy areas. No action taken

V. The existing Byelaws apply only to New Streets and Buildings.

In conclusion, I beg to express my appreciation of the manner in which your Inspector has carried out his duties.

Table 572 (Factories and Workshops) is affixed to this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**F. FELIX JONES. D.P.H.,**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



